# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS MCALLEN DIVISION

DIAMOND OFFSHORE SERVICES	§		
COMPANY and DIAMOND	§		
OFFSHORE USA L.L.C.,	§		
PLAINTIFFS,	§		
	§		
VS.	§	CIVIL ACTION NO	
	§		
HSBC BANK USA,N.A., HSBC	§		
MEXICO S.A., INSTITUCION DE	§		
BANCA MULTIPLE, GRUPO	ÿ		
FINANCIERO HSBC, CONADAT			
ISAIAS GOMEZ BERMAN			
DEFENDANTS			

#### NOTICE OF REMOVAL OF CIVIL ACTION

TO: THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DIVISION OF TEXAS IN THE MCALLEN DIVISION:

The Defendant, Conadat Isaias Gomez Berman ("Gomez"), files this Notice of Removal. The Court is referred to the following discussion in support of this pleading:

- 1. This action was commenced on March 5, 2010 in the 334<sup>TH</sup> Judicial District Court in Harris County, Texas with case number 2010-14949.
- 2. Plaintiffs Diamond Offshore Services Company and Diamond Offshore (USA) L.L.C. ("Diamond") sued Defendants Gomez, HSBC Bank USA, N.A. ("Bank USA") and HSBC Mexico, S.A., Institucion de Banca Multiple, Grupo Financiero HSBC ("HSBC Mexico") for breach of contract and fraud, including fraudulent concealment and conspiracy to defraud, in connection with an alleged scheme to embezzle money from Diamond.
- 3. Plaintiff Diamond is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in Houston, Harris County, Texas.

Case 7:10-cv-00168

- 4. Defendant HSBC USA is a Virginia corporation with its principal place of business in Buffalo, New York and is engaged in banking, including but not limited to foreign banking, as these terms are understood by statute.
- 5. Defendant HSBC Mexico is a foreign corporation, with its principal place of business in Mexico City, Mexico and is engaged in banking, including but not limited to foreign banking, as these terms are understood by statute.
- 6. Defendant Gomez is an individual residing in McAllen, Texas, and at all times material to this action was working for Diamond as Diamond's Mexico administrator having access to Diamonds bank accounts.
- 7. Diamond alleges that it maintained bank accounts with HSBC USA and HSBC Mexico. Diamond further alleges that Gomez would email a cash statement to Diamond's main office in Houston, Texas requesting money to cover checks written from Diamond's HSBC accounts in Mexico. Diamond would then purchase pesos and electronically transfer them from Diamond's US bank accounts to Diamond's HSBC accounts in Mexico to cover expenses. The transferred money was received by the HSBC bank branch in Campeche, Mexico and was used to pay Diamonds' expenses related to its operations. Diamond further alleges that Gomez and others conspired to embezzle a portion of the internationally transferred funds from Diamonds' bank accounts.
- 8. 12 U.S.C. § 632 provides that...all suits of a civil nature at common law or in equity to which any corporation organized under the laws of the United States shall be a party, arising out of transactions involving international or foreign banking, or banking in a dependency or insular possession of the United States, or out of other international or

foreign financial operations, either directly or through the agency, ownership, or control of branches or local institutions in dependencies or insular possessions of the United States or in foreign countries, shall be deemed to arise under the laws of the United States, and the district courts of the United State shall have original jurisdiction of all such suits; and any defendant in any such suit may, at any time before the trial thereof, remove such suits from a State court into the district court of the United States for the proper district by following the procedure for the removal of cause otherwise provided by law. 12 U.S.C. § 632.

- 9. Pursuant to 12 U.S.C. § 632, Defendant Gomez has an independent right to remove this action and may do so without the consent of the other defendants.
- 10. Venue is proper in this district under 28 U.S.C. § 1441(a) because this district and division embrace the place where the action has been pending.
- 11. Written notice of the filing of the Notice of Removal has been served upon plaintiff and a copy of the Notice of Removal has been filed with the Clerk of the District Court of Harris County, Texas. A copy of the Notice to State Court of Filing of Removal is attached to this pleading and marked as Exhibit 1.
- 12. All pleadings, process, orders, and other filings in the state court action are attached to this notice as required by 28 U.S.C. § 1446(a). A copy of Plaintiffs' Second Amended Petition is attached as Exhibit 2; copies of citations issued to Defendants is attached as Exhibit 3; a copy HSBC USA's Original Answer is attached as Exhibit 4; a copy of HSBC Mexico's Original Answer Subject to Special Appearance is attached as Exhibit 5; HSBC Mexico's Special Appearance is attached as Exhibit 6; Conadat Gomez Original Answer is attached as Exhibit 7; a copy of the District Court Docket Control

Order is attached as Exhibit 8; and a copy of the District Court Docket Sheet is attached as Exhibit 9.

WHEREFORE, Defendant Gomez prays that the above entitled action be removed from the 334<sup>th</sup> District Court in Harris County, Texas to this Court and for further relief to which Defendant Gomez may be entitled.

Respectfully submitted

Law Office of Michael J. Garza, P.C. 6521 North 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite F McAllen, Texas 78504 Telephone No. (956) 994-3100 Telecopier No. (956) 994-3174

BY:

/s Michael J. Garza

Michael J. Garza State Bar No. 00788769

ATTORNEY FOR DEFENDANT CONADAT ISAIAS GOMEZ BERMAN

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I the undersigned do hereby certify that on the 14th day of June, 2010 a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing document was sent via electronic mail and/or electronic filing to:

Laura P. Haley Diamond Offshore Management Company 15415 Katy Freeway, Suite 300 Houston, Texas 77094 lhaley@dodi.com

Anthony Weiner Dobrowski L.L.P. 4601 Washington Ave, Suite 300 Houston, Texas 77007 adw@doblaw.com

#### ATTORNEYS FOR DIAMOND PLAINTIFFS

Glen M. Boudreaux Maryellen Shea Jackson Walker L.L.P. 1401 McKinney, Suite 1900 Houston, Texas 77010 gboudreaux@jw.com mshea@jw.com

ATTORNEYS FOR HSBC DEFENDANTS

/s Michael J.	Garza
Michael J. Garza	

#### INDEX OF THE PLEADINGS, ORDERS AND EXECUTED PROCESS

- Notice to State Court of Filing of Removal 1.
- Plaintiffs' Second Amended Petition 2.
- 3. Copies of citations issued Defendants
- HSBC USA's Original Answer 4.
- HSBC Mexico's Original Answer Subject to Special Appearance 5.

Document 1

- HSBC Mexico's Special Appearance 6.
- Conadat Gomez Original Answer 7.
- District Court Docket Control Order 8.
- 9. District Court Docket Sheet

#### ALL ATTORNEYS APPEARING IN THE PROCEEDING

#### Plaintiffs' Attorneys

Laura P. Haley **Diamond Offshore Management Company** 15415 Katy Freeway, Suite 300 Houston, Texas 77094 lhaley@dodi.com

Anthony Weiner Dobrowski L.L.P. 4601 Washington Ave, Suite 300 Houston, Texas 77007 adw@doblaw.com

### HSBC Defendants' Attorneys

Glen M. Boudreaux Maryellen Shea Jackson Walker L.L.P. 1401 McKinney, Suite 1900 Houston, Texas 77010 gboudreaux@jw.com mshea@jw.com

#### Defendant Conadat Isaias Gomez Berman's Attorney

Michael J. Garza **Law Office of Michael J. Garza, P.C.** 6521 North 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite F McAllen, Texas 78504 michaelgarza@mac.com

## EXHIBIT 1

#### **CAUSE NO. 2010-14949**

DIAMOND OFFSHORE SERVICES	§	IN THE DISTRICT COURT
COMPANY & DIAMOND OFFSHORE	§	
(USA) L.L.C.	§	
	§	
VS.	§	334 <sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT
	§	
HSBC BANK USA, N.A., HSBC MEXICO	§	•
S.A. & CONADAT ISAIAS	§	
GOMEZ BERMAN	§	HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

## NOTICE TO STATE COURT OF FILING OF NOTICE OF REMOVAL

TO: Loren Jackson

Harris County District Clerk

P.O. Box 4651

Houston, Texas 77210-4651

On June 14, 2010, Defendant, Conadat Isaias Gomez Berman filed the attached notice of removal in the Office of the Clerk of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas.

Respectfully Submitted,

LAW OFFICE OF MICHAEL J. GARZA, P.C.

6521 N. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Ste F

McAllen, Texas 7%54

Tele: (956) 994-7/10

Fax: (956) 994/31/14

By:

Michael J. Garza

State Bar No 20788769

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I the undersigned do hereby certify that on the 14th day of June, 2010 a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing document was sent via electronic mail and/or electronic filing to:

Laura P. Haley

Diamond Offshore Management Company
15415 Katy Freeway, Suite 300

Houston, Texas 77094

<a href="mailto:lhaley@dodi.com">lhaley@dodi.com</a>

Anthony Weiner **Dobrowski L.L.P.**4601 Washington Ave, Suite 300
Houston, Texas 77007
adw@doblaw.com

#### ATTORNEYS FOR DIAMOND PLAINTIFFS

Glen M. Boudreaux Maryellen Shea Jackson Walker L.L.P. 1401 McKinney, Suite 1900 Houston, Texas 77010 gboudreaux@jw.com mshea@jw.com

ATTORNEYS FOR HSBC DEFENDANTS

/s Michael J. Garza

Michael J. Garza

## EXHIBIT 2

#### CAUSE NO. 2010-14949

DIAMOND OFFSHORE SERVICES	§	IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
COMPANY & DIAMOND OFFSHORE	§	
(USA) L.L.C.	§	
Plaintiffs,	§	
	§	
VS.	§	HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS
	§	
HSBC BANK USA, N.A., HSBC MEXICO	§	
S.A. & CONADAT ISAIAS	§ .	
GOMEZ BERMAN	§ .	
Defendants.	§	334 <sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT

#### PLAINTIFFS' SECOND AMENDED PETITION

COME NOW DIAMOND OFFSHORE SERVICES COMPANY AND DIAMOND OFFSHORE (USA) L.L.C. ("Plaintiffs and/or Diamond") and file Plaintiffs' Second Amended Petition against Defendants, HSBC BANK USA, N.A., ("HSBC USA") HSBC MEXICO S.A. ("HSBC Mexico")(collectively "HSBC") and CONADAT ISAIAS GOMEZ BERMAN ("Gomez")(collectively "Defendants").

#### Discovery Control Plan

1. This case is being conducted as a Level 3 case in accordance with Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 190.4.

#### Overview

2. This is a fraud, misrepresentation, and breach of contract case. Defendant Gomez and his co-conspirators engaged in fraud by conspiring to embezzle from Diamond's HSBC bank accounts. After Diamond discovered the embezzlement, and after Defendant HSBC confirmed that fraud had been committed, HSBC offered to pay Diamond the amount that was removed from Diamond's account in the embezzlement scheme. Diamond accepted HSBC's offer. HSBC then reneged on its agreement with Diamond.

#### Parties

- 3. Plaintiff Diamond Offshore Services Company ("DOSC") is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in Houston, Harris County, Texas.
- 4. Plaintiff Diamond Offshore (USA) L.L.C. is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in Houston, Harris County, Texas.
- 5. Defendant, HSBC Bank USA, N.A. is a Virginia corporation with its principal place of business in Buffalo, New York. It was served at its offices located at One HSBC Center, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor, Buffalo NY, 14203 and will answer on May 21, 2010.
- 6. Defendant, HSBC Mexico S.A. is a foreign corporation, with its principal place of business in Mexico City, Mexico. It was served with process by serving HSBC Bank USA, N.A. at One HSBC Center, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor, Buffalo NY, 14203 and will answer on May 21, 2010.
- 7. Defendant Conadat Isaias Gomez Berman is an individual residing in Texas. He was served and will answer as required.

#### Jurisdiction and Venue

- 8. This Court has jurisdiction over this matter. By way of example, the matter exceeds the jurisdictional limits of this court; HSBC regularly conducts business in the State of Texas and is therefore subject to the general jurisdiction of its Courts. Further, this court also has specific jurisdiction over HSBC from its dealings with Plaintiffs, upon which this lawsuit was filed, and based upon the nature of HSBC's actions This Court has jurisdiction over Gomez, who is a Texas resident.
- 9. Venue is proper in this Court. By way of example, venue is proper under Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code, Section 15.002(a)(1)&(4).

#### Facts

- 10. In 2003, Gomez became Plaintiffs' Mexico Administrator. As such, Gomez lived and worked in Ciudad del Carmen, Mexico, administering shore-based operations for Plaintiffs' drilling rigs working in the southern Gulf of Mexico. As the administrator, Gomez had access to Plaintiffs' bank accounts, accounts payables, checks, vendors and money.
- 11. Plaintiffs have banking relationships with HSBC USA and HSBC Mexico. Each week, Gomez would cause a "cash statement" to be emailed to Plaintiffs' main office (in Houston, Texas) requesting money to cover checks written the following week from Plaintiffs' HSBC accounts in Mexico. Each week, based upon Gomez's request, Plaintiffs would cause pesos (MP\$) to be purchased and electronically transferred from their US accounts to their HSBC Mexico accounts to cover expenses. The money Plaintiffs transferred would be received in the HSBC bank branch in Campeche, Mexico and used to pay Plaintiffs' expenses related to its operations. HSBC Mexico's Campeche branch was managed by Emisael Suarez.
- 12. Unbeknownst to Plaintiffs, Suarez, Gomez, and others conspired to embezzle a portion of the transferred sums from Plaintiffs' bank accounts. In furtherance of the conspiracy, Gomez requested money in weekly cash reports to cover the amounts they would embezzle from Plaintiffs' accounts. In reliance on these representations, Diamond would wire money into its HSBC accounts in Mexico. Gomez would process fraudulent invoices and write checks on Plaintiffs' accounts, allegedly paying the fraudulent invoices. Then Gomez would contact Suarez and travel to the HSBC bank that Suarez managed, where Suarez would endorse the checks and cause it to be deposited in an

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account created for Gomez, rather than to the payee of the check. Thus, funds that Gomez solicited from Plaintiffs were withdrawn from their accounts under false pretenses and deposited into Gomez's account. Plaintiffs could not discover this fraud unless it scrutinized the back of the deposited checks, as only the back of the check showed that the money was not deposited into the payee's account, but rather into Gomez's. It was not customary for Plaintiffs to receive copies of the backs of its checks. After the check was deposited into Gomez's account, funds were transferred into accounts for the benefit of Gomez, Suarez and others.

- 13. In June 2009, facts arose causing Plaintiffs to investigate whether a financial impropriety had occurred. Gomez was no longer working with Plaintiffs' operations in Mexico, and Suarez had been transferred to a different HSBC branch bank. During the investigation, Plaintiffs obtained copies of the front and back of many of its checks written in 2006. After analyzing the backs of the checks deposited into Gomez's account, Plaintiffs realized, for the first time, that a theft had occurred.
- 14. Plaintiffs requested and received numerous checks and assistance from HSBC, using Plaintiffs' relationship with HSBC USA to facilitate its request of checks from HSBC Mexico. Plaintiffs and HSBC USA had a direct and comprehensive banking relationship, through which HSBC USA often facilitated Plaintiffs' worldwide banking needs, assisting in resolving any issues that arose, including in Mexico. When Plaintiffs had gathered sufficient facts, it contacted HSBC USA and reported the fraud. In response, HSBC USA launched an internal investigation and put Plaintiffs in contact with Marcial Lujan ("Mr. Lujan"), an attorney for HSBC Mexico. HSBC USA represented that Lujan could respond to Plaintiffs' inquiries "in the most effective manner." HSBC

USA represented to Plaintiffs that Mr. Lujan was HSBC's "legal point person for this matter."

- 15. Plaintiffs dealt with Mr. Lujan for much of the investigation, from time to time involving HSBC USA when Mr. Lujan was unresponsive. At the conclusion of the investigation, Plaintiffs and HSBC began discussing HSBC's reimbursement of Plaintiffs' losses. Beginning November 10, 2009, HSBC and Plaintiffs discussed the amount of Plaintiffs' reimbursement.
- 16. Mr. Lujan of HSBC Mexico initially offered to compensate Plaintiffs for half of the losses that resulted from the conspiracy and fraud. Plaintiffs rejected that offer but agreed to continue discussions. In that meeting, to justify HSBC's offer of half of the losses, Mr. Lujan and his colleague, Edson Fernandez, HSBC's Director of Litigation, showed Plaintiffs' counsel confidential banking documents and spent considerable time explaining details of the potential settlement documents. Plaintiffs responded with a new demand: \$1,600,000. This amount included the amount that was removed from Plaintiffs HSBC accounts in the fraud, as well as a portion of the investigative fees Plaintiffs expended discovering the fraud. In response, Mr. Lujan offered, on behalf of HSBC, to compensate Plaintiffs for the full amount of funds that were embezzled from Plaintiffs' accounts, MP\$14,633,342. Mr. Lujan further represented that the entire transaction would be completed and the funds transferred by year end 2009. Plaintiffs accepted HSBC's offer of MP\$14,633,342 and sent Mr. Lujan an email memorializing their agreement.
- 17. The following day, Mr. Lujan contacted Plaintiffs and claimed that he did not have the authority to offer the MP\$14,633,342 he had offered the day before and that

Diamond accepted. Instead, he said he only had authority to offer the amount HSBC initially offered to Plaintiffs – half of the amount embezzled.

#### Causes of Action

Fraud, Fraudulent Concealment, and Conspiracy to Defraud

- 18. Plaintiffs incorporate paragraphs 1-17 as if fully set forth herein.
- 19. Gomez and HSBC's employee, Suarez, made representations and omissions regarding amounts due to vendors and the actual payee of Plaintiffs' checks. These representations and non-disclosures were false and Gomez and Suarez knew they were false or recklessly disregarded their truth or falsity.
- 20. Based on their representations, Plaintiffs provided funds to the accounts to which Gomez and Suarez had access. Thus, Plaintiffs relied on Gomez's and Suarez's representations and non-disclosures to Plaintiffs' detriment.
- 21. As a proximate result of Gomez and Suarez's misrepresentations and non-disclosures, Plaintiffs were damaged in an amount in excess of the jurisdictional limits of this court, for which it now sues.
- 22. The discovery rule applies to the facts of this case, delaying accrual of Plaintiffs' fraud cause of action, because of the fraud and fraudulent concealment of Gomez and HSBC's employee Suarez.
- 23. Because the nature of the embezzlement committed by Gomez and Suarez was inherently undiscoverable and objectively verifiable, the discovery rule applies to toll any applicable statutes of limitations.
- 24. HSBC USA and HSBC Mexico made representations and omissions regarding Mr. Lujan's authority to represent HSBC in his dealings with Plaintiffs. These

representations and non-disclosures were false and HSBC USA and HSBC Mexico knew they were false or recklessly disregarded their truth or falsity.

- 25. Mr. Lujan made a false representation when he offered, on behalf of HSBC, to pay the full amount embezzled from Plaintiffs' accounts. Mr. Lujan knew HSBC would not pay the amount offered, MP\$14,633,342, and/or knew he was not authorized to offer that amount to Plaintiffs. These representations and non-disclosures were false, and Mr. Lujan knew they were false or recklessly disregarded their truth or falsity.
- 26. Based on HSBC USA and HSBC Mexico's representations of Mr. Lujan's authority, Plaintiffs entered into good faith negotiations with Mr. Lujan, believing he was authorized to negotiate on behalf of HSBC. Based upon Mr. Lujan's offer of the full amount embezzled from Plaintiffs' accounts, Plaintiffs agreed to accept MP\$14,633,342, an amount significantly less than Plaintiffs demanded from HSBC during the negotiations(\$1,600,000.00). Thus, Plaintiffs relied upon Mr. Lujan's authority and good faith by negotiating with him and agreeing to accept a lesser amount. However, Mr. Lujan was either not authorized to act in the capacity that he and HSBC represented he was, and/or he knowingly or recklessly represented that HSBC would pay the amount he offered. Thus, using false pretenses, he negotiated with Plaintiffs, offering an amount he knew or should have known that HSBC would not pay for the purpose of trying to get Plaintiffs to ultimately accept even less.
- 27. As a proximate result of HSBC USA and HSBC Mexico's misrepresentations and non-disclosures, Plaintiffs were injured in an amount in excess of the jurisdictional limits of this Court for which it now sues. As a proximate result of Mr. Lujan's

misrepresentations and omissions, Plaintiffs were injured in excess of the jurisdictional limits of this Court for which it now sues.

#### Breach of Contract

- 28. Plaintiffs incorporate paragraphs 1-27 as if fully set forth herein.
- 29. HSBC breached its contract with Plaintiffs. All conditions precedent to this action have occurred.
- 30. Plaintiffs have incurred breach of contract damages in the amount of MP\$14,633,342, (approximately \$1,400,000.00 when Plaintiffs transferred the funds to its accounts) as well as direct, special and incidental damages in excess of the minimum jurisdictional limits of this Court, for which it now sues.

#### Attorneys Fees & Interest

- 31. Plaintiffs incorporate paragraphs 1-30 as if fully set forth herein.
- 32. Pursuant to applicable law and statutes, including but not limited to Civil Practices & Remedies Code, Section 38.001, Plaintiffs request that its attorney's fees and costs be awarded, along with pre-and post judgment interest.

#### Jury Trial Requested

33. Plaintiffs have tendered the appropriate fee.

#### Prayer

34. Therefore, Plaintiffs Diamond Offshore Services Company and Diamond Offshore (USA) L.L.C. respectfully request that this Court, on final trial, award Plaintiffs judgment for the full amount of their damages, attorney's fees, costs, applicable pre and post judgment interest, and for such other and further relief at equity and law to which Plaintiffs may be justly entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

By:

Laura P. Haley Texas Bar No. 24012766 Diamond Offshore Management Company 15415 Katy Freeway, Suite 300 Houston, Texas 77094 (281) 647-2180 (281) 647-2223 (fax)

Anthony D. Weiner Texas Bar No. 24043984 Dobrowski L.L.P. 4601 Washington Avenue, Suite 300 Houston, Texas 77007 713-659-2900 713-659-2908 (fax)

ATTORNEYS FOR DIAMOND OFFSHORE SERVICES COMPANY & DIAMOND OFFSHORE (USA) L.L.C.

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Plaintiffs' Second Amended Petition has been served on June 7th, 2010 by electronic mail, fax and/or CM-RRR upon the following counsel:

Glen M. Boudreaux Jackson Walker L.L.P. 1401 McKinney Street, Suite 1900 Houston, Texas 77010 713-752-4404 (direct) 713-754-6712 (direct fax)

Michael J. Garza of Michael J. Garza P.C., 6521 North 10th Street, Suite F, McAllen, Texas 78504 (956) 994-3100 (telephone) (956) 994-3100 (fax)

Anthony D. Weiner

EXHIBIT 3

Received

MAY 1 1 2010

Legal Department

#### CAUSE NO. 201014949

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EXHIBIT 4

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334TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

#### CAUSE NO. 2010-14949

DIAMOND OFFSHORE SERVICES § IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF COMPANY and DIAMOND OFFSHORE § (USA) L.L.C. § Plaintiffs, § HARRIS COUNTY, T E X A S S S HSBC BANK USA, N.A., HSBC MEXICO § S.A., CONADAT ISAIAS and GOMEZ § BERMAN §

### DEFENDANT HSBC BANK USA'S ORIGINAL ANSWER

Defendant HSBC Bank USA, N.A., answers Plaintiffs' First Amended Petition as follows:

Pursuant to Rule 92 of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, HSBC Bank USA, N.A. pleads a general denial to Plaintiffs' allegations.

Further, HSBC Bank USA asserts that Plaintiffs' claims are barred by the statute of limitations and contractual limitations.

Further, Plaintiffs do not have standing to pursue this suit.

Defendants.

HSBC Bank USA, N.A. respectfully prays that Plaintiffs take nothing by their suit, that HSBC Bank USA, N.A. recover costs of court, and for such other and further relief to which it may be justly entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

JACKSON WALKER L.L.P.

Gien M. Boadreaux State Bar No. 02696500 Maryellen Shea

State Bar No. 00793948 1401 McKinney, Suite 1900

Houston TX 77010

Telephone: 713-752-4200

Fax: 713-752-4221

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<u>@</u>030/030

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing instrument has been forwarded to all counsel of record, as indicated below, in compliance with the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, on May 25, 2010:

Laura P. Haley Diamond Offshore Management Company 15415 Katy Freeway, Suite 300 Houston, Texas 77094

Anthony D. Weiner Dobrowski L.L.P. 4601 Washington Avenue, Suite 300 Houston, Yexas 77007 Via Facsimile: (281) 647-2180

Via Facsimile: (713) 659-2908

Maryeller Shea

EXHIBIT 5

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#### CAUSE NO. 2010-14949

DIAMOND OFFSHORE SERVICES	§	IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
COMPANY & DIAMOND OFFSHORE	ş	
(USA) L.L.C.	§	
Plaintiffs,	§	
	§	
VS.	§	HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS
	§	
HSBC BANK USA, N.A., HSBC MEXICO	§	
S.A. and CONADAT ISALAS GOMEZ	Š	
BERMAN	§	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
Defendants.	§	334TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

### DEFENDANT HSBC MEXICO'S ORIGINAL ANSWER SUBJECT TO ITS SPECIAL APPEARANCE

Defendant HSBC Mexico, S.A., Institución de Banca Múltiple, Grupo Financiero HSBC ("HSBC Mexico"), incorrectly named in this lawsuit as HSBC Mexico S.A., answers Plaintiffs' First Amended Petition as follows:

Subject to its Special Appearance and pursuant to Rule 92 of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, HSBC Mexico pleads a general denial to Plaintiffs' allegations.

Further, HSBC Mexico asserts that Plaintiffs' claims are harred by the statute of limitations.

Further, Plaintiffs do not have the standing to pursue this suit.

HSBC Mexico respectfully prays that Plaintiffs take nothing by their suit, that HSBC Mexico recover costs of court, and for such other and further relief to which they may be justly entitled.

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Respectfully submitted,

JACKSON WALKER L.L.P.

Glen M. Boxfireaux State Bar No. 02696500 Maryellen Shea

State Bar No. 00793948 1401 McKinney, Suite 1900 Houston TX 77010

Telephone: 713-752-4200 Fax: 713-752-4221 gboudreaux@jw.com mshea@jw.com

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing instrument has been forwarded to all counsel of record, as indicated below, in compliance with the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, on May 25, 2010:

Laura P. Haley Diamond Offshore Management Company 15415 Katy Freeway, Suite 300 Houston, Texas 77094

Anthony D. Weiner Dobrowski L.L.P. 4601 Washington Avenue, Suite 300 Houston, Texas 77007 Via Facsimile: (281) 647-2180

Via Facsimile: (713) 659-2908

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EXHIBIT 6

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## CAUSE NO. 2010-14949

DIAMOND OFFSHORE SERVICES COMPANY and DIAMOND OFFSHORE (USA) L.L.C.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT

Plaintiffs,

HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

HSBC BANK USA, N.A., HSBC MEXICO S.A., CONADAT ISAIAS

GOMEZ BERMAN

334th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Defendants.

## DEFENDANT HSBC MEXICO, S.A.'S SPECIAL APPEARANCE

TO THE HONORABLE DISTRICT COURT:

Defendant HSBC Mexico, S.A., Institución de Banca Múltiple, Grupo Financiero HSBC ("HSBC Mexico"), incorrectly named in this lawsuit as HSBC Mexico S.A., makes this Special Appearance pursuant to TEXAS RULE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE 120a for the purpose of objecting to this Court's jurisdiction over HSBC Mexico. HSBC Mexico asks the Court to sustain its Special Appearance and dismiss the lawsuit brought by Plaintiffs Diamond Offshore Services Company and Diamond Offshore (USA) L,L.C. (collectively "Diamond"), and respectfully shows the Court as follows:

Diamond sued Defendants HSBC Bank USA, N.A., HSBC Mexico and Conadat 1. Isaias Gomez Berman alleging fraud and breach of contract in connection with an alleged scheme to embezzle money from Diamond. Without distinguishing between the entities, Diamond also alleges that "HSBC" reneged on an agreement to settle this dispute.

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## I. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

2. HSBC Mexico lacks the minimum contacts with Texas required for this Court to exercise personal jurisdiction over it. HSBC Mexico is a Mexican bank doing business in Mexico. It does not conduct business in Texas, nor do Diamond's claims in this lawsuit arise from any actions by HSBC Mexico in Texas. Therefore, pursuant to Rule 120a of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, this action should be dismissed against HSBC Mexico because this Court lacks personal jurisdiction over it.

#### II. SPECIAL APPEARANCE

3. HSBC Mexico makes this Special Appearance before filing any other plea, pleading, motion or any other document. Any plea, pleading, motion or document filed subsequent to this Special Appearance is filed expressly subject to this Special Appearance, and is not intended as a waiver hereof or as a general appearance in this suit.

# III. <u>DIAMOND MAKES NO JURISDICTIONAL</u> <u>ALLEGATIONS AGAINST HSBC MEXICO</u>

4. Diamond asserts no allegations that HSBC Mexico took any actions within the State of Texas or consummated any transactions in Texas that are related to the particular controversy that forms the basis of their action. Rather, Diamond merely makes a blanket jurisdictional allegation that "HSBC regularly conducts business in the State of Texas and is therefore subject to the general jurisdiction of its Courts. By way of further example, this court also has specific jurisdiction over HSBC based on its dealings with Plaintiffs, upon which this lawsuit was filed." Amended Petition ¶8.

- 5. First, Diamond improperly conflates the two HSBC entities, but makes no specific allegation as to HSBC Mexico. HSBC Bank USA, N.A. and HSBC Mexico are two separate and distinct legal entities, and Diamond must establish personal jurisdiction over each HSBC entity. See Affidavit of Fernando Franco de La Garza ("Affidavit") attached hereto as Exhibit A, ¶3. Moreover, to the extent Diamond intended this allegation to apply to HSBC Mexico, it is incorrect; HSBC Mexico does not conduct business in the State of Texas, regularly or otherwise. See infra.
- 6. In fact, Diamond's allegations demonstrate a complete lack of connection between Texas and HSBC Mexico (and this entire lawsuit). All allegations of wrongful conduct occurred in Mexico, not in Texas. Diamond alleges that:

Diamond's employee, Defendant Conadat Isaias Gomez Berman ("Gomez") lived and worked in Mexico. Amended Petition ¶10.

Gomez sent emails from Mexico to Diamond requesting that Diamond wire money to Mexico to cover Diamond's expenses for each upcoming week. Amended Petition ¶11.

The money that Diamond wired was received by HSBC Mexico – in Campeche Mexico. Amended Petition ¶11-12.

The individuals accused of conspiring to embezzle money were all located in Mexico. Amended Petition ¶11-12.

Gomez processed fraudulent invoices and wrote checks on Diamond's accounts in Mexico. Amended Petition ¶12.

The fraudulent checks were endorsed and Diamond's money was withdrawn from Diamond's accounts in Mexico. Amended Petition ¶12.

The money was then deposited into Gomez's account in Mexico and subsequently disbursed to others in Mexico. Amended Petition ¶12.

To investigate the matter, Diamond contacted Marcial Lujan, HSBC Mexico's attorney located in Mexico. Amended Petition ¶14, Affidavit ¶4.

6. The only activities alleged to have occurred in The United States (and/or Texas) are that *Diamond* wired their own money from their own "US accounts" to Mexico, and HSBC Bank USA N.A. apparently "facilitated" and "assisted" Diamond by launching an internal investigation which put Diamond in contact HSBC Mexico's attorney—located in Mexico. Amended Petition ¶11, 14.

#### IV. JURISDICTIONAL FACTS

- 7. HSBC Mexico is a Mexican bank, HSBC Mexico's corporate domicile, principal place of business and place of incorporation are all in the United Mexican States ("Mexico"). See Affidavit Exhibit A, ¶5.
- 8. HSBC Mexico does not conduct business in Texas. It is not qualified to do business in Texas nor is it registered as a foreign corporation with the Secretary of State of Texas. It is not a resident of Texas and is not required to maintain a registered agent in Texas. In fact, to establish any kind of an office or branch outside of Mexico, a specific authorization from the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit of Mexico ("Secretaría de Hacienda y Crédito Público") is required. No such authorization exists for HSBC Mexico to establish or maintain a branch or office in Texas. Affidavit ¶6.
- 9. HSBC Mexico does not maintain a mailing address or telephone number in Texas.

  It does not have any employees or agents assigned to Texas. Affidavit ¶7.

Diamond again improperly conflates the allegations against the HSBC entities with regard to the investigation and purported "settlement." E.g., Petition ¶13-17. As Diamond is aware, Marcial Lujan is an attorney who is employed by HSBC Mexico, S.A., not HSBC Bank USA N.A. Affidavit ¶4.

- 10. HSBC Mexico does not own, lease, rent, or control any real or personal property in Texas. Nor does it own any assets in Texas. It does not pay taxes to any governmental agency of the State of Texas. Affidavit ¶8. It also does not conduct any marketing or advertising in Texas. Affidavit ¶9.
- 11. HSBC Mexico does not hold Board of Directors, officers, or other official meetings in Texas. Affidavit ¶10. HSBC Mexico is not a shareholder, partner, member, or manager of any registered entity that is either organized under the laws of the State of Texas or registered with the Secretary of the State of Texas for the purpose of conducting business in the State of Texas. Affidavit ¶11.
- 12. HSBC Mexico has not taken any action in Texas that gives rise to this cause of action against HSBC Mexico, and it has not purposefully availed itself of the protections of the State of Texas. Other than in this cause, HSBC Mexico has not appeared in any Texas court or been named as a party to any legal proceeding in Texas. Affidavit ¶12.
- 13. HSBC Mexico's relationship to Diamond Offshore USA, LLC and Diamond Offshore Services Company (the "Diamond Entities") is based in Mexico. For instance,
  - (i) The Checking Deposit Agreements entered into by HSBC Mexico with the Diamond Entities (the "Checking Deposit Agreements"), that regulate the rights and obligations of the parties related to the events that form the basis of this litigation, were executed by the Diamond Entities in Mexico;
  - (ii) All of the checks issued by the Diamond Entities pursuant to the Checking Deposit Agreements are payable in Mexico;
  - (iii) The Checking Deposit Agreements are governed by <u>Mexican law</u>, and all matters related to, and/or in connection with, the checks which are issued pursuant to such Checking Deposit Agreements, are governed by <u>Mexican law</u>; and
  - (iv) The Checking Deposit Agreements expressly provide that, in case of controversy, the Diamond Entities have expressly submitted to the jurisdiction of the <u>Mexican competent courts</u>.

Affidavit ¶13.

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14. The Diamond entities have filed a criminal action before the Federal General Attorney of Mexico with respect to the events that form the basis for this litigation, which is currently under process. Affidavit ¶12. Thus, these plaintiffs have already submitted themselves to and availed themselves of Mexico's judicial system. Diamond has improperly filed this action in Texas.

#### V. ARGUMENT & AUTHORITIES

#### Requirements For Personal Jurisdiction

15. Texas courts do not have jurisdiction over a nonresident defendant unless the nonresident defendant has purposefully established "minimum contacts" with Texas and the court's exercise of jurisdiction over defendant comports with "fair play and substantial justice." Burger King Corp. v. Rudzewicz, 471 U.S. 462, 474-76 (1985); Moki Mac River Expeditions v. Drugg, 221 S.W.3d 569, 575 (Tex. 2007); BMC Software Belgium, N.V. v. Marchand, 83 S.W.3d 789, 795 (Tex. 2002); Guardian Royal Exch. Assurance, Ltd. v. English China Clays, P.L.C., 815 S.W.2d 223, 226 (Tex. 1991).

#### Minimum Contacts Analysis.

16. Texas courts must determine whether the nonresident defendant has purposefully established minimum contacts with Texas. Moki Mac, 221 S.W.3d at 575-76; CSR Ltd. v. Link, 925 S.W.2d 591, 596 (Tex. 1996); Guardian Royal, 815 S.W.2d at 226. To prove it had no minimum contacts with Texas, the defendant must show that: (1) it did not purposefully avail itself of the privilege of conducting activities within Texas, and (2) any contacts it may have had with Texas do not give rise to specific or general jurisdiction. See Moki Mac, 221 S.W.3d at 575-76; Commonwealth Gen. Corp. v. York, 177 S.W.3d 923, 925 (Tex. 2005); BMC Software, 83 S.W.3d at 795.

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17. To establish purposeful availment, the defendant's acts must be purposeful rather than random, isolated, or fortuitous, and the defendant must have sought some benefit, advantage, or profit in availing itself of Texas jurisdiction. *IRA Res., Inc. v. Griego*, 221 S.W.3d 592, 596 (Tex. 2007); *Moki Mac*, 221 S.W.3d at 575; *Michiana Easy Livin' Country, Inc. v. Holten*, 168 S.W.3d 777, 785 (Tex. 2005).

#### Specific Jurisdiction.

18. Texas courts cannot exercise specific jurisdiction over a nonresident defendant unless the plaintiff's litigation results from injuries that are alleged to arise from or relate to the defendant's contacts with Texas. *Moki Mac*, 221 S.W.3d at 575; *Schlobohm v. Schapiro*, 784 S.W.2d 355, 358 (Tex. 1990); *see Helicopteros Nacionales de Colombia*, S.A. v. Hall, 466 U.S. 408, 414 & n.8 (1984); *Michiana*, 168 S.W.3d at 784-85; *BMC Software*, 83 S.W.3d at 795-96. The defendant's acts must have a substantial connection with the operative facts of the litigation, *Moki Mac*, 221 S.W.3d at 585.

#### General Jurisdiction.

19. Texas courts cannot exercise general jurisdiction over a nonresident defendant unless the defendant has continuous and systematic contacts in Texas. *PHC-Minden, L.P. v. Kimberly-Clark Corp.*, 235 S.W. 3d 163, 169 (Tex. 2007); *Moki Mac*, 221 S.W.3d at 575; *BMC Software*, 83 S. W. 3d at 796; *Guardian Royal*, 815 S.W.2d at 230; *see Helicopteros Nacionales*, 466 U.S. at 415-16.

#### Fair Play & Due Process.

20. Texas courts cannot exercise jurisdiction over a nonresident defendant if it will offend traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice and will be inconsistent with the constitutional requirements of due process. See International Shoe Co. v. Washington, 326 U.S.

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310, 316 (1945); Moki Mac, 221 S.W.3d at 575; Guardian Royal, 815 S.W.2d at 231; Schlobohm v. Schapiro, 784 S.W.2d 355, 359 (Tex. 1990).

### Diamond Cannot Meet the Requirements for Personal Jurisdiction Over HSBC Mexico

- 21. HSBC Mexico has neither "purposefully availed" itself of the privilege of conducting activities within Texas nor created "minimum contacts" necessary for this Court to exercise to establish personal jurisdiction over it. *Burger King*, 471 U.S. at 474-475 (1985).
- 22. There is simply no evidence to support any contention that HSBC Mexico had continuous or systematic contacts with Texas sufficient to support general jurisdiction. In fact, the evidence shows the opposite HSBC Mexico does not, nor is it qualified or authorized to, conduct business in Texas. See Affidavit ¶1-12.
- 23. There is no evidence to support specific jurisdiction in this matter. Diamond's own pleading demonstrates that all allegations of wrongdoing occurred in Mexico not in Texas.
- 24. Because of the complete absence of any facts to support general or specific jurisdiction in this matter, this Court's exercise of personal jurisdiction over HSBC Mexico would most certainly offend traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice. See International Shoe, 326 U.S. at 316; Burger King Corp., 471 U.S. at 477-78.

#### VI. PRA<u>YER</u>

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, HSBC Mexico respectfully moves the Court to dismiss this action pursuant to Tex. R. Civ. P. 120(a), and for the Court to award HSBC Mexico such further relief, including the cost of filing this motion, as the Court deems appropriate under the circumstances.

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Respectfully submitted,

JACKSON WALKER L.L.P.

Glen M. Boudreaux State Bar No. 02696500 Maryellen Shea State Bar No. 00793948 1401 McKinney, Suite 1900 Houston TX 77010 Telephone: 713-752-4200

Fax: 713-752-4221 gboudreaux@jw.com mshea@jw.com

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing instrument has been forwarded to all counsel of record, as indicated below, in compliance with the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, on May 25, 2010:

Laura P. Haley Diamond Offshore Management Company 15415 Katy Freeway, Suite 300 Houston, Texas 77094

Anthony D. Weiner Dobrowski L.L.P. 4601 Washington Avenue, Suite 300 Houston, Texas 77007 Via Facsimile: (281) 647-2180

Via Facsimile: (713) 659-2908

Maryellen Shea

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# Exhibit A

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CAUSE NO. 2010-14949

OND OFFSHORE SERVICES PANY & DIAMOND OFFSHORE A) L.L.C.

Plaintiffs,

۷s,

BERMAN

HSBC BANK USA, N.A., HSBC MEXICO S.A. & CCONADAT ISAIAS GOMEZ

Defendants.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF

HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

334TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF HARRIS

#### <u>AFFIDAVIT OF FERNANDO FRANCO DE LA GARZA</u>

FERNANDO FRANCO DE LA GARZA deposes and states (subject to and in support of the special appearance of HSBC Mexico, S.A. in the above-referenced matter) as follows:

- "My name is FERNANDO FRANCO DE LA GARZA. I am over 18 years of age. I have never been convicted of a crime and am fully competent to make this Affidavit. I am now, and during the time of the events that form the basis of this litigation was, Legal Manager (Gerente Juridico) for the Legal Direction of Contracts and Consulting of HSBC Mexico, S.A., Institución de Banca Múltiple, Grupo Financiero HSBC ("HSBC Mexico"). HSBC Mexico is one of the defendants in the above-captioned and styled matter,
- I have personal knowledge as to the matters stated in this Affidavit. In my capacity as Legal Manager (Gerente Juridico) for the Legal Direction of Contracts and Consulting of HSBC Mexico I am responsible for drafting and reviewing contracts entered into by HSBC Mexico and consulting in corporate and compliance matters involving HSBC Mexico. The facts set forth in this Affidavit are true and correct.
- HSBC Mexico is a subsidiary of HSBC Holdings plc. It is a legal entity entirely 3. separate and distinct from HSBC Bank USA, N.A. HSBC Mexico is neither owned by nor an owner of HSBC Bank USA, N.A., directly, indirectly or remotely.
- Mr. Marcial Lujan is the Director Juridico de Consultoria for H5BC Mexico, S.A. and works and resides in Mexico.

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HSBC Mexico is a Mexican bank. HSBC Mexico's corporate domicile, principal place of business and place of incorporation are all in the United Mexican States ("Mexico").

HSBC Mexico does not conduct business in Texas. It is not qualified to do business in Texas nor is it registered as a foreign corporation with the Secretary of State of Texas. It is not a resident of Texas and is not required to maintain a registered agent in Texas. In fact, to establish any kind of an office or branch outside of Mexico, a specific authorization from the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit of Mexico ("Secretaria de Hacienda y Crédito Público") is required. No such authorization exists for HSBC Mexico to establish or maintain a branch or office in Texas.

- HSBC Mexico does not maintain a mailing address or telephone number in Texas. It does not have any employees or agents assigned to Texas.
- HSEC Mexico does not own, lease, rent, or control any real or personal property in Texas. Nor does it own any assets in Texas. It does not pay taxes to any governmental agency of the State of Texas.
- 9. HSBC Mexico does not conduct any marketing or advertising in Texas.
- 10. HSBC Mexico does not hold Board of Directors, officers, or other official meetings in Texas.
- 11. HSBC Mexico is not a shareholder, partner, member, or manager of any registered entity that is either organized under the laws of the State of Texas or registered with the Secretary of the State of Texas for the purpose of conducting business in the State of Texas.
- 12. HSBC Mexico has not taken any action in Texas that gives rise to this cause of action against HSBC Mexico, and it has not purposefully availed itself of the protections of the State of Texas. Other than in this cause, HSBC Mexico has not appeared in any Texas court or been named as a party to any legal proceeding in Texas.
- HSBC Mexico's relationship to Diamond Offshore USA, LLC and Diamond Offshore Services Company (the "Diamond Entities") is based in Mexico. For instance,
  - (i) The Checking Deposit Agreements entered into by HSBC Mexico with the Diamond Entities (the "<u>Checking Deposit Agreements</u>"), that regulate the rights and obligations of the parties related to the events that form the basis of this litigation, were executed by the Diamond Entities in <u>Mexico</u>;
  - (ii) All of the checks issued by the Diamond Entities pursuant to the Checking Deposit Agreements are payable in Mexico;

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- (iii) The Checking Deposit Agreements are governed by Mexican law, and all matters related to, and/or in connection with, the checks which are issued pursuant to such Checking Deposit Agreements, are governed by Mexican law; and
- (iv) The Checking Deposit Agreements expressly provide that, in case of controversy, the Diamond Entities have expressly submitted to the jurisdiction of the <u>Mexican competent courts</u>.
- 14. The Diamond entities have filed a criminal action before the Federal General Attorney of Mexico with respect to the events that form the basis for this litigation, which is currently under process."

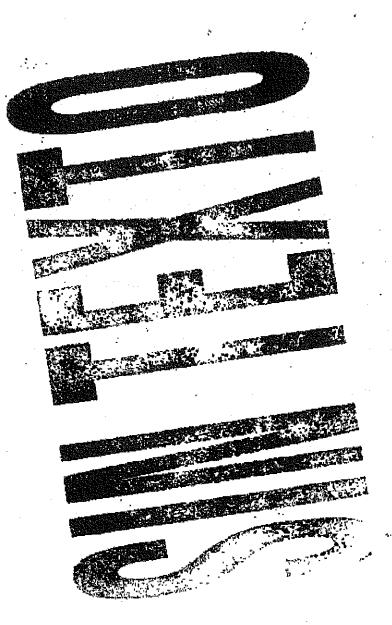
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Dated: May 18, 2010

FERNANDO PRONCO DE LA GARZA

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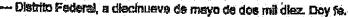


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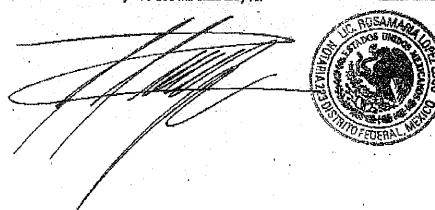
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05/25/2010 17:18 FAX W020/030

ROSAMARÍA LÓPEZ LUGO, TITULAR DE LA NOTARÍA DOSCIENTOS VEINTITRES DEL DIS-TRITO FEDERAL, CERTIFICO: Que por acta número treca mil ciento cincuenta y nueva, de facha diecinuave de mayo de dos mil diez, ciorgada ante la fe de la suscrita notario, comparació el 5cenciado FERNANDO FRANCO DE LA GARZA, por su propio derecho y en representación de "HSBC MÉXICO", SOCIEDAD ANÓNIMA, INSTITUCIÓN DE BANCA MÚLTPLE, GRUPO FL NANCIERO HSBC, en términos de los articulos ciento veinticoho fracción segunda y ciento trainte y cinco de la Ley del Notariado para el Distrito Federal en vigor, con el objeto de: A).- RECONO-CER COMO 8UYA LA FIRMA que apareca al calce del presente documento; y. 13).- RATFICAR EL CONTENIDO DE ESTE DOCUMENTO.- Hago constar que en la referida acta quedo debidamento acreditada la identidad y capacidad legal del comparaciente, la legal existencia de "HSBC." méxico", sociedad anónima, institución de banca múltiple, grupo financie-RO HSBC, de conformidad con las léyes de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos y las facultades del licanciado FERNANDO FRANCO DE LA GARZA, con el primer testimonio, primera copia en su orden da la escritura número dosciantos noventa y cuatro mil quinientos treinta y tres, de fecha ocho de marzo de dos mil seis, otorgada ante la fe de la licenciada Geòrgina Schile Olivera González, titular de la notaria número dosciantos siste del Distrito Federal, actuando como esociada y en el protocolo del licanciado Tomás Lozano Molina, titular de la notaria número diez del Distrito Federal, el cual quedó inscrito en el Registro Público de Comercio del Distrito Federal, en el folio mercantil número sasente y cuetro mil cincuenta y tres, el disciséis de merzo de dos mil diez, así como que el compareciente conoce y entiende el Idioma Inglés. --







05/25/2010 17:19 FAX

12021/030



"My name is Fernando Franco de la Garza. I am capable of making this verification. I have read the Defendant HSBC Mexico's Special Appearance. The facts stated in it are within my personal knowledge and are true and correct."

Dated: May 18, 2010

FERNAMOO FRANCO DE LA GARZA

05/25/2010 17:19 FAX

<u>Ø</u>022/030



05/25/2010 17:19 FAX

Case 7:10-cv-00168

<u>1</u>023/030

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DE SERVICIOS LEGALES
Dirección General Jurídica
y de Estudios CERRIA Jurís

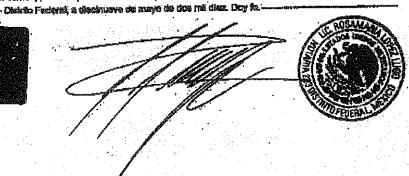
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ROBAMARÍA LÓPEZ LUGO, TITULAR DE LA NOTARÍA DOSCIENTOS VEINTITRÉS DEL DIS-TRITO FEDERAL, CIENTEPICO: Que por sesa ministro trace mil clarito obsessaria y nueva, da facha decimoste de mayo na des mã diez, otologada ente la lia de la ausorba notario, compareció el licanciado FERMANDO FRANCO DE LA GARZA, por su propto derecho y en representación de "Hebr México", sociedad anómbia, institución de Banca Maitrle, Grupo Fi-NANCERO HABO, en terminos de los anticulos ciento veleticono fracción segunda y ciento trobia y cinco de la Ley del Notariedo pera el Distrito Federal en vigor, con el objeto de: A)... RECONO... CER COMO SUYA LA FIRMA que aparece el carca del presente documento, y, E).- RATERCAR EI, CONTEMIDO DE ESTE DOCUMENTO.- Hago constar que en la referida acta quadó debidemente ecreditario la identidad y capacidad lagal del comparacionio, in lagal existencia de "1985C Mexico", Bociedad Angeria, institución de Banca Múltiple, grupo finance. FEU HIBEC, de conformiciad con las layes de los Estados Unidos Menicarias y las feculiades del licenciado FERNANCO FRANCII DE LA GARZA, con el primer testimonio, primere copia en su orden de la escritora número descianica novasta y cuesto mili quantestos trainte y trea, de techs ocho de muco, de des mil sele, otorganis ama la fe de la licandada Georgina Schill Olivera González, titular de la notaria número desciarána elate del Diatria Federal, actuando como saccisata y en el protocolo del Bosnotado Tombis Lozario Molina, titular de la notada número dez del Cistilio Federal, el cual quedo inicido sin el Registro Público de Comendo del Distrito Federal, en el folio mancantil número sessente y cuerro sell sin cuerto y tres, el discissión de mesco de dos mil diss. del como que el comparecisse ocupos y unitenda el lácuna inglés.--







05/25/2010 17:21 FAX

I, ROSAMARIA LOPEZ LUGO, PROPRIETOR OF NOTARY'S OFFICE TWO HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THREE OF THE FEDERAL DISTRICT [OF MEXICO CITY], CERTIFY: That through instrument number thirteen thousand one hundred and fifty-nine, dated the nineteenth of May two thousand and ten, granted in the presence of the undersigned notary, Mr. FERNANDO FRANCO DE LA GARZA appeared, on his own behalf and representing "HSBC MEXICO", SOCIEDAD AMONIMA, INSTITUCION DE BANCA MULTIPLE, GRUPO FINANCIERO HSBC. In the terms of Articles one hundred and twenty-sight second section and one hundred and thirty-five of the Law on Notaries for the Federal District in force, with the am of A). ACKNOVVLEDGING AS HIS OWN THE INITIALS AND SIGNATURE that appear in the margin and at the foot of this document, respectively, and, 3). RATIFYING THE CONTENTS OF THIS DOCUMENT.- I hereby certify that the klandby and legal capacity of the appearing person, the legal existence of "HSSC MEXICO", SOCIEDAD ANONINA, INSTITUCION DE BANCA MULTIPLE, GRUPO FINANCIERO HSBC, in accordance with the laws of the United Mexican States were duly evidenced in the aforementioned instrument and the authority of Mr. FERNANDO FRANCO DE LA GARZA with the first official copy, first in order of instrument number two hundred and ninety-four thousand five hundred and thirty-three, dated the algith of March two thousand and six, granted in the presence of Mrs. Georgina Schills Olivers Gonzales, proprietor of notary's office number two hundred and seven of the Federal District [of Mexico City], acting as sesociate and in the notarial racord book of Mr. Tomas Lozano Moline, preprietor of notary's office number ten of the Federal District, which was entered In the Public Commercial Registry of the Federal District, in commercial falls number stray-four thousand and fifty-three, on the abdeenth of March two thousand and ten, so wall as that the appearing person knows and understands English. -Mexico Chy, Federal District, on the nineteenth of May two thousand and ten. I often to the foregoing.



(Illegible signature)





05/25/2010 17:21 FAX

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Federal District's Government Counseling Unit of the General Legal and Legislative Studies Department of the Legal Services and Juridical Counseling Office

Dutles:

\$ 64,00



#### Mexico

Morteo City

Apostilla (Convention de La Haya du 8 octubre 1981)

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This public document has been at	gnad in Mexico by:				
ROSAMARIA LOPEZ LUGO	······································			•	
acting in her/his status of: NOTARY PUBLIC NO. 223 IN AND	for the pederal	DISTRICT, ME	жсо сіту		
and centains the seal corresponds	ng to: <u>NOTARIAL C</u>	FFICE NO. 223	in and for t	HE FEDERAL DISTR	uct, Mexici
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JURIDICAL COUNSELING OFFICE					
MEXICO CITY, FEDERAL DISTRICT	_ on _19 <sup>111</sup> _ of	MAY 2010	)		
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I, Michele Pagano, Expert Translator, duly qualified, and authorized by the Superior Court of Justice in Mexico City, with domicile at Rio Elba 25-K, Col. Cuauhtémoc, Mexico City, D.F., Tel. 5286-81-89 and 5286-29-02 (Fax), do hereby certify that the foregoing is, to the best of my knowledge and ballef, a true and correct translation of the attached document in Spanish.

Mexico, City, Faderal District, May 19, 2010.

Michele Pagano

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PECERAL DATEST FALTOUNISHING DEFICE I Legishiya STRON EXHIBIT 7

May 25. 2010 3:52PM MICHAEL J GARZA ATTORNEY

No. 6388 P. 3/4

#### CAUSE NO. 2010-14949

DIAMOND OFFSHORE SERVICES	§	IN THE DISTRICT COURT
COMPANY & DIAMOND OFFSHORE	Š	•
(USA) L.L.C.	§	
•	Š	<u> </u>
VS.	Š	334 <sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT
•	Š	
HSBC BANK USA, N.A., HSBC MEXICO	§	
S.A. & CONADAT ISAIAS	Š ·	•
GOMEZ BERMAN .	8	HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

#### **DEFENDANT'S ORIGINAL ANSWER**

#### TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

NOW COMES, CONADAT ISAIAS GOMEZ BERMAN, Defendant in the above-entitled and numbered cause, and files this, Original Answer, and in support of which it would respectfully show unto the Court the following:

Í.

Reserving the right to file other and further pleadings, exceptions, and denials, this defendant denies each and every material allegation contained in Plaintiffs' Original Petition and demands that Plaintiffs be required to prove the same by a preponderance of the evidence in accordance with the laws and the Rules of Civil Procedure of the State of Texas.

11

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Defendant prays that Plaintiffs take nothing against this defendant and that defendant go hence with its costs without day.

Respectfully submitted,

Law Office of Michael J. Garza, P.C. 6521 North 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Ste. F McAllen, Texas 78504 Telephone (956) 994-3160

Facsimile (956))984-5174

By:

Michael V. Garza State Bar No. 00788769

ATTORNEY FOR DEFENDANT CONADAT ISAIAS GOMEZ BERMAN

May. 25. 2010 3:52PM MICHAEL J GARZA ATTORNEY

No. 6388 P. 4/4

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, HEREBY CERTIFY that on this the day of May, 2010 a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was served via regular mail to the following counsel of record:

Laura P. Haley
Diamond Offshore Management Company
15415 Katy Freeway, Ste. 300
Houston, Texas 77094

Anthony D. Weiner 4601 Washington Ave., Ste 300 Houston, Texas 77007

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFFS

Michael J/Q

EXHIBIT 8

Case No. 201014949

DCORX

DIAMOND OFFSHORE SERVICES COMP

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF

HSBC BANK USA N/A A BANGARAN TAB

HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

JUDICIAL DISTRICT 334th

#### DOCKET CONTROL ORDER

The following docket control order shall apply to this case unless modified by the court. If no date is given below, the item is governed by the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure.

- JOINDER. All parties must be added and served, whether by amendment or third party practice, by this date. THE PARTY CAUSING THE JOINDER SHALL PROVIDE 1. A COPY OF THIS DOCKET CONTROL ORDER AT THE TIME OF SERVICE.
- **EXPERT WITNESS DESIGNATION.** Expert witness designations are required and must be served by the following dates. The designation must include the information 2. listed in Rule 194.2(f). Failure to timely respond will be governed by Rule 193.6.

(a) 04/22/11 Experts for parties seeking affirmative relief.

(b) **05/23/11** All other experts.

- STATUS CONFERENCE. Parties shall be prepared to discuss all aspects of the case, 3. including ADR, with the court on this date. TIME: Failure to appear will be grounds for dismissal for want of prosecution.
- DISCOVERY LIMITATIONS. The discovery limitations of Rule 190.2, if applicable, 4. or otherwise of Rule 190.3 apply unless changed below:

Total hours per side for oral depositions.

Number of interrogatories that may be served by each party on any other party. (b)

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION. By this date the parties must either (1) file an agreement for ADR stating the form of ADR requested and the name of an agreed mediator, if applicable; or (2) set an objection to ADR. If no agreement or objection is filed, the court may sign an ADR order. (a)

ADR conducted pursuant to the agreement of the parties must be completed by this date. (b)

- DISCOVERY PERIOD ENDS. All discovery must be conducted before the end of 6. 06/23/11 the discovery period. Parties seeking discovery must serve requests sufficiently far in advance of the end of the discovery period that the deadline for responding will be within the discovery period. Counsel may conduct discovery beyond this deadline by agreement. Incomplete discovery will not delay the trial.
- DISPOSITIVE MOTIONS AND PLEAS. Must be heard by oral hearing or submission. If subject to an interlocutory appeal, dispositive motions or pleas must be heard by this date. Summary judgment motions not subject to an interlocutory appeal must be heard by this date.

Rule 166a(i) motions may not be heard before this date.

- CHALLENGES TO EXPERT TESTIMONY. All motions to exclude expert testimony 8. and evidentiary challenges to expert testimony must be filed by this date, unless extended by leave of court.
- PLEADINGS. All amendments and supplements must be filed by this date. This 9. order does not preclude prompt filing of pleadings directly responsive to any timely filed pleadings.

10. Parties shall be prepared to discuss all aspects of trial with the court on this date. Failure to appear will be grounds for dismissal for want of prosecution. TIME:

TRIAL. If not assigned by the second Friday following this date, the case will be reset. 11.08/22/11

#### SIGNED

Anthony D. Weiner 4601 Washington Ave # 300 Houston TX 77007-5433 

SHARON MCCALLY 24043984 Judge, 334TH DISTRICT COURT Date Generated 05/28/2010

EXHIBIT 9

HCDistrictclerk.com

DIAMOND OFFSHORE SERVICES COMPANY vs.

6/14/2010

HSBC BANK USA N A

Cause: 201014949

CDI: 7

Court: 334

#### APPEALS

No Appeals found.

#### COST STATMENTS

No Cost Statments found.

#### **TRANSFERS**

No Transfers found.

#### POST TRIAL WRITS

No Post Trial Writs found.

#### **ABSTRACTS**

No Abstracts found.

#### **DOCUMENTS**

Proper credentials required. Please login or contact Harris County District Clerk's Office at (713) 755-7300.

#### **SUMMARY**

CASE DETAILS

COURT DETAILS

File Date

3/5/2010

Court

334<sup>th</sup>

Case (Cause) Location

Civil Intake 1st Floor

Address

201 CAROLINE (Floor: 15)

Case (Cause) Status

Ready Docket

HOUSTON, TX 77002

Case (Cause) Type

Phone:7133686500

**FRAUD** 

JudgeName

SHARON MCCALLY

Next/Last Setting Date

6/25/2010

Court Type

Civil

#### **PARTIES**

Name

Туре

**DEFENDANT - CIVIL** 

Post Jdgm Attorney

DIAMOND OFFSHORE PLAINTIFF - CIVIL

SERVICES COMPANY

WEINER,

HSBC BANK USA N A DEFENDANT - CIVIL

ANTHONÝ D.

BOUDREAUX, GLEN M.

DIAMOND OFFSHORE PLAINTIFF - CIVIL (USA) L L C

WEINER,

HSBC MEXICO S A

ANTHONY D.

BERMAN, CONADAT DEFENDANT - CIVIL

SHEA, MARYELLI

ISAIAS GOMEZ

GARZA, MICHAEI

**JAMES** 

HSBC BANK USA N A REGISTERED AGENT (VIRGINIA CORPORATION) BY SERVING AT ITS OFFICES

HSBC MEXICO S A REGISTERED AGENT (FOREIGN CORPORATION) BY SERVING HSBC BANK USA N A

#### JUDGMENT/EVENTS

Date	Description	Order Signed	Post Pgs Attorney Jdgm
6/7/2010	SECOND AMENDED ORIGINAL PETITION	J	0 WEINER, ANTHONY D.
6/7/2010	SECOND AMENDED ORIGINAL PETITION	,	0 WEINER, ANTHONY D.
6/2/2010	ANSWER ORIGINAL PETITION		0 GARZA, MICHAEL JAMES
6/1/2010	DOCKET CONTROL/PRETRIAL ORDER SIGNED	6/1/2010	3
5/28/2010	DESIGNATED TRIAL READY		0
5/25/2010	ANSWER ORIGINAL PETITION		0 BOUDREAUX, GLEN M.
5/25/2010	ANSWER ORIGINAL PETITION		0 SHEA, MARYELLEN
5/17/2010	FIRST AMENDED ORIGINAL PETITION		0 WEINER, ANTHONY D.
5/17/2010	FIRST AMENDED ORIGINAL PETITION		0 WEINER, ANTHONY D.
3/5/2010	JURY FEE PAID (TRCP 216)		0
3/5/2010	ORIGINAL PETITION		0 WEINER, ANTHONY D:
3/5/2010	ORIGINAL PETITION		0 WEINER, ANTHONY D.

#### **SETTINGS**

Date	Court Post Jdgn	Docket Type	Reason	Results	Comments	Defendant
5/26/2010 08:00 AM	. 334	Submission Docket (Local Rule 12)	MOTION TO DISMISS	Passed	NEEDED:NTC/ORDEF /COC/NSWC	
5/26/2010 08:00 AM	334	Submission Docket (Local Rule 12)	SPECIAL APPEARANCE (TRCP 120A)	Passed	NEEDED:NTC/ORDEF /COC/NSWC	<b>{</b>
6/25/2010 10:00 AM	334	Law Day Docket	SUMMARY JUDGMENT - MOTION FOR FINAL (TRCP 166A)			
6/25/2010 10:00 AM	334	Law Day Docket	SPECIAL APPEARANCE (TRCP 120A)			
5/23/2011 10:05 AM	334	Another Docket	COURT SCHEDULING ORDER			
8/22/2011 09:00 AM	334	Trial Setting	Trial on Merits			

#### **SERVICE**

Type Status Instrument Person Requested Issued Served Returned Received Tracking

CITATION SERVICE ORIGINAL HSBC BANK 3/5/2010 3/10/2010 7251275 (NON-RESIDENT ISSUED / IN PETITION USA N A CORPORATE) POSSESSION (VIRGINIA OF SERVING CORPORATION) BY SERVING AT ITS OFFICES  CITATION SERVICE ORIGINAL HSBC MEXICO 3/5/2010 3/10/2010 7251276 (NON-RESIDENT ISSUED / IN PETITION S A (FOREIGN	CITATION	SERVICE RETURN / EXECUTED	ORIGINAL PETTIION	BERMAN, CONADAT ISAIAS GOMEZ OR ANYWHERE HE MAY BE	3/5/2010	3/10/2010 5/5/2010 5/14/2010	5/17/2010	72511361	)
TIS OFFICES  CITATION SERVICE ORIGINAL HSBC MEXICO 3/5/2010 3/10/2010 7251276  (NON-RESIDENT ISSUED / IN PETITION S A (FOREIGN	(NON-RESIDEN	T ISSUED / IN POSSESSION OF SERVING	PETITION I	FOUND HSBC BANK USA N A (VIRGINIA		3/10/2010		72512755	
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